

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A biodegradable fibrous ~~support~~ web for soil mulching comprising a fibrous mass and biodegradable thermobonding fibres distributed in the fibrous mass.
2. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the thermobonding fibres consist exclusively of polylactic fibres.
3. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 5 to 50% by weight ~~by weight~~ of the web ~~support~~.
4. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 1, further comprising a grid associated with at least a part of the ~~support~~ web, wherein the grid includes threads comprised of a biodegradable polymer selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, viscose, modified viscose, polyhydroxybutyrate, and polyhydroxyalcanoate, and mixtures thereof.
5. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 4, wherein the grid consists of modified viscose threads.
6. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 4, wherein the weight of the grid is between 10 and 50 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
7. (currently amended) A fibrous web ~~support~~ according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is positioned exclusively in an area ~~of fixing points of the support on~~ web for attachment to the ground.

8. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is glued directly on a surface of the fibrous ~~support~~ web by means of a water-resistant biodegradable glue which is selected from the group consisting of ethylene polyvinyl alcohol (EVOH), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), and mixtures thereof, the glue being present in an amount between 5 and 50% by weight of the grid.

9. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 4, wherein the grid is positioned directly on the fibrous mass of the ~~support~~ web.

10. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a hydrophobic resin in an amount from 0.5 to 15% by weight of the support, wherein the hydrophobic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyamide-amine-epichlorhydrin resins, polyethyleneimine resins, starch derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

11. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises carbon black in an amount from 0.5 to 4% by weight of the support.

12. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable natural latex obtained from rubber trees, the balance to 100 % consisting of water, and stabilizing and preserving agents for the latex.

13. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, which further comprises a coating which is a dried residue of an aqueous solution comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of biodegradable prevulcanized natural latex obtained from ~~the~~ a rubber tree, the balance to 100 % consisting of water, and stabilizing and preserving agents for the latex.

14. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 12, wherein the biodegradable natural latex is obtained from *Hevea Brasiliensis* and has a dry rubber concentration at least of 60%.

15. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 12, wherein the stabilizing agents are selected from the group consisting of vegetable proteins, fillers and mixtures thereof.

16. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 12, wherein the preservative agents are selected from the group consisting of animal proteins, tannins, the natural colouring agents, chitosan and mixtures thereof.

17. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 12, wherein the coating solution contains by weight of:

from 5 to 50 % biodegradable natural latex obtained from ~~the~~ rubber trees,  
from 1 to 20 % proteins,  
from 0 to 20 % of talc,  
from 1 to 20 % of chitosan, and/or indigo, and/or glycerin, and/or tannins,  
the balance to 100 % consisting of water.

18. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 40 to 100% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres, and from 0 to 60% by weight of deciduous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

19. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 80 to 100% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 20% by weight of coniferous unbleached or bleached kraft fibres.

20. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 1, wherein the fibrous mass comprises, exclusive of the biodegradable thermobonding fibres, from 20 to 100% by weight of coniferous bleached kraft fibres, from 0 to 40% by weight of annual plant fibres, and from 0 to 40% by weight of rayon fibres.

21. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 3, wherein the thermobonding fibres are present in an amount between 10 and 15% by weight of the support web.

22. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 4, wherein the grid is associated with at least a part of at least one support face of the support web.

23. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 22, wherein the grid is associated with the whole of the at least one support face of the support web.

24. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 4, wherein the grid is incorporated into at least a part of the support web.

25. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to claim 24, wherein the grid is incorporated into the whole of the support web.

26. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 6, wherein the weight of the grid is about 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

27. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 15, wherein the stabilizing agent comprises casein, soya protein, talc or calcium carbonate.

28. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 16, wherein the preservative agent comprises glycerin or indigo.

29. (currently amended) A fibrous web support according to Claim 8, wherein the glue is present in an amount of about 15% by weight of the grid.